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Help Prevent Woods Fires

U. S. Department of Agriculture
Forest Service

HELP PREVENT WOODS FIRES

Everybody Loses When Timber Burns!



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BE WELL INFORMED

For further information;- write to your State Forester at the State Capital, your Extension Forester at the College of Agriculture, or the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C.

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GROW TIMBER-IT PAYS!

FIRES

Fires kill saplings and injure timber.

Timber trees are scarred by fire. The scars open the way for disease and insects to enter the trees. Many trees thus attacked through the fire scars are killed.

The saplings of to-day are the timber trees of to-morrow. If we are to have timber in the future, then young trees are valuable now, and are worth protecting.

Burning the woods to "green up the grass" is practiced because stock prefer to graze on burns in the spring. Stock prosper on unburned range and the grazing improves from year to year by the spread of carpet grass and lespedeza, which are destroyed by fires.

Fires destroy wealth in woods fertilizer, favor floods, and increase soil wastage. Hillsides are washed, bottomlands silted up, and water powers decreased.

Burning the range is of no value in getting rid of cattle ticks. It has been fully tried by trained scientists, who tell us that no pasture has ever been cleaned by burning.

Boll weevils winter mostly in cracks, holes, and Spanish moss, and are not killed off by woods fires. Burning the woods to get rid of boll weevils is like burning the barn to get rid of rats. Dr. George A. Maloney, of the Field Crop Insect Investigation Station, Tallulah, La., says, "We deprecate very much the practice of some farmers of burning over their woodland every winter with the idea of destroying boll weevils. The weevil does not pass the winter in large numbers close enough to the ground for the burning to be effective. The damage caused by such fires inflicts greater harm than would be possible by the few weevils which perchance might be destroyed by the fire."

The South holds the highest record for number of fires and area of grassland and woodland burned. As a result it ranks low in amount and kinds of game.

"Forest fires, caused largely by human indifference or carelessness, are the greatest single obstacle to reforestation and effective forest management."—Calvin Coolidge.

STOP BURNING THE WOODS

FORESTS

Forests are wealth.

Trees are a crop from the soil. A forest is not necessarily gone when cut, but may be regrown, one crop following another perpetually. The future wealth of the South must come in large part from the land.

Forests have played a very important part in rebuilding the South's industrial and domestic prosperity. Timber is one of the most valuable natural assets—much too valuable to be destroyed or injured by fires.

Trees help to build soil. When the woods burn, valuable fertilizer is destroyed. Often this is worth as much as \$15 to \$25 an acre.

Forests clothe the soil with a spongy cover of woods mold which protects the soil from overheating in mid-summer, checks soil erosion and washing, and stores up much-needed water. As a result, the trees grow much faster and springs are fed.

Pines and cattle, in the wire-grass sections, can be grown on the same land. Fires, however, greatly reduce the carrying capacity of the land.

Growing timber pays the taxes and an additional net income. The growing of timber is the most profitable use to which certain kinds of land can be put. An acre will grow 300 to 800 board feet of pine timber yearly, which means \$2 to \$4 net yearly income, or in timber and turpentine from \$4 to \$6 yearly. Growing timber will provide an enormous taxable wealth to support churches and schools and to build good roads.

Timber is a farm savings bank account, collateral for loans, and a recognized part of diversified farming. Agriculture is dependent upon plentiful and cheap supplies of timber. Also, poorer lands can be more successfully farmed where there are forest industries to give winter work.

By bringing back the forests, we restore the home of fish and game. The streams clear up and improve in regularity of flow and volume. The game birds and animals have breeding grounds and a fair chance to hold their own in competition with the hunter.

KEEP THE FORESTS GROWING



FIRES OR FORESTS



